

Message Text

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60

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01

SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 USIA-06 AID-05 /063 W

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P 212000Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2361

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACKS IN CORDOBA

REF: BA-5601, BA 5628

1. THE CORDOBA TERRORIST RAMPAGE ON AUG 20 (SEE REFTEL) ENDED WITH FIVE POLICEMEN DEAD AND FIVE WOUNDED, AT LEAST THREE KNOWN TERRORIST DEAD AND MANY OTHERS WOUNDED. IN ADDITION AT LEAST TWO CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. NEWS SOURCES CALLED EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER LAST NIGHT TO REPORT THAT VIOLENCE HAD EXTENDED INTO THE EVENING HOURS, AND IN FACT THAT LACABANNE'S PRESS CONFERENCE HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED BY SHOOTING OUTSIDE THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

2. TROOPS OF THE THIRD ARMY CORPS WERE INVOLVED IN REPULSING THE ATTACKS. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER THEY WERE CALLED IN BY FEDERAL INTERVENTOR LACABANNE OR WHETHER THEY WERE SIMPLY DEFENDING THEMSELVES (SOME OF THE SHOOTING TOOK PLACE NEAR LIMINARY BARRACKS). WHATEVER THE CASE, MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TOGETHER WERE EVENTUALLY ABLE TO RESTORE ORDER IN THE CITY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ARMY TROOPS HAVE BEEN USED TO CONTROL URBAN VIOLENCE FOR OVER A YEAR. FEDERAL INTERVENTOR LACABANNE STATED LAST NIGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN

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MEETING WITH THIRD ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL DELIA LARROCA

TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR DEALING WITH THE TERRORISTS.

3. COMMENT: TERRORIST ATTACKS ON PROVINCIAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN CENTER OF THE CITY WERE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THEY HAVE CAPABILITY TO CARRY THEIR OPERATIONS RIGHT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DOORSTEP IF THEY SO CHOOSE. LACABANNE HAS FREQUENTLY CLAIMED THAT TERRORISM HAS BEEN DEFEATED IN CORDOBA. HE HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED ON EACH OCCASION BY FRESH OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE. THAT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS INTERRUPTED BY GUN FIRE DOUBTLESS EMBARRASSED HIM AGAIN.

4. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY ARGENTINE CITIZEN THAT DURING EVENTS OF AUG. 20 US CITIZEN ROBERT EDWARD RAMIREZ BORN IN CALIFORNIA, AGE 21, WAS ARRESTED. RAMIREZ HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN IN ARGENTINA TEN DAYS AS A TOURIST. HE IS NOT REGISTERED WITH EMBASSY. RAMIREZ IS REPORTEDLY BEING HELD AT JEFATURA CENTRAL DE POLICIA. THE EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING CASE CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT TOMORROW, AUG 22.

5. AS CABLE BEING TRANSMITTED WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT TERRORIST VIOLENCE HAS AGAIN ERUPTED IN CORDOBA. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION INDICATES THAT SHOOTING IS OCCURING OVER WIDE AREA OF CITY. THREE TERRORIST SAID TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ONE SHOOT-OUT WITH POLICE.
HILL

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